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3-19-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant:

PAUL L. POOL
WILLIAM H. GOWAN

Filed: March 26, 1998

Serial No. 09/517,383

For: PROTECTION OF PIPELINE
JOINT CONNECTIONS



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Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Dave W. Arola

Attorney Docket No.: 85356.0011

CLAIMS AS OF AMENDMENT OF 3/7/01

Please cancel claims ~~1-16~~.

~~17.~~ A cover for protecting exposed pipeline joint sections on weight coated offshore underwater pipelines comprising:

a pliable cover material overlapping adjacent end portions of the weight coat, completely enclosing the exposed pipe joint section, and sealed in place forming an annular space around the pipe;

said cover material comprising a sheet of material wrapped in a cylindrical shape and having overlapping side edges sealed together to form said annular space;

said annular space between the exposed pipeline and the cover material filled with a joint filling material of a high density open celled polyurethane foam, formed by reacting polyurethane chemicals inside the cover material; and

said cover material including an opening formed in the sheet for injecting the joint filling material into the annular space.

Please cancel claim ~~18~~ without prejudice.

~~19.~~ The cover of claim ~~17~~ wherein the pliable cover material is formed from polyethylene.

Please cancel claims ~~20~~ and ~~21~~ without prejudice.

~~22.~~ The cover of claim ~~17~~, wherein the open celled polyurethane foam of the joint filling material absorbs moisture when underwater to increase ballast of the pipeline.

Please cancel claims ~~23~~, ~~24~~, ~~25~~, and ~~26~~ without prejudice.

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~~27~~ The cover of claim ~~17~~, wherein the cover material is between about 0.02 inches to about 0.5 inches in thickness.

Please add claim 28 as follows:

~~5~~ 28. The cover of claim ~~17~~, wherein the opening in the cover material is sized to receive a mixing head for injecting the polyurethane chemicals and prevent escape thereof from the cover material.